

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 TAIPEI 05266 090804Z  
ACTION STR-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10  
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 NSC-05 TRSE-00 CEA-01 SS-15  
L-03 STRE-00 /065 W  
-----010215 092019Z /73  
R 090759Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8528

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TAIPEI 05266

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ETRD, ELAB, TW  
SUBJ: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON LABOR STANDARDS

REF: A) STATE 136706 B) STATE 194523

1. INFORMATION REQUESTED BY REFTEL A GIVEN BELOW. IN  
GENERAL, ROC LABOR LAWS MAKE NO DISTINCTION BETWEEN EXPORT  
AND IMPORT SUBSTITUTION SECTORS, AND THE ENTIRE ECONOMY.

2. SLAVE, INDENTURED OR OTHER FORCED LABOR, (APART FROM  
PRISON LABOR, WHICH HAS NEGLIGIBLE EFFECT ON INTERNATIONAL  
TRADE) IS BANNED IN THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA UNDER THE TERMS  
OF THE SLAVE LABOR PACT, SIGNED BY THE ROC ON SEPTEMBER 25,  
1926 IN GENEVA.

3. CHILD LABOR IS REGULATED BY CHAPTER II OF THE FACTORY  
LAW. IT FORBIDS THE EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN UNDER THE  
AGE OF 14. CHILDREN BETWEEN THE AGES OF 14 AND 16 MAY ONLY  
PERFORM "LIGHT" LABOR, AND THEN ONLY BETWEEN THE HOURS OF  
6:00 A.M. AND 8:00 P.M., AND NOT EXCEEDING 8 HOURS PER DAY.  
IN PRACTICE, ALL THE FOREIGN INVESTED COMPANIES AND THE  
LARGEST DOMESTICALLY-OWNED EXPORT ORIENTED COMPANIES CON-  
FIRM TO THE LAW'S REQUIREMENTS.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 TAIPEI 05266 090804Z

4. THE LABOR SAFETY AND HYGIENE LAW PASSED IN 1974 CONTAINS  
27 DIFFERENT STANDARDS BASED ON SIMILAR U.S. LAWS. IF ANY-  
THING, THE STANDARDS IN THE FOREIGN INVESTED AND LARGER  
DOMESTICALLY-OWNED EXPORT-ORIENTED FACTORIES ARE ON THE  
WHOLE HIGHER THAN FOR DOMESTICALLY-ORIENTED CHINESE COM-  
PANIES.

5. THERE ARE NO KNOWN DIFFERENTIAL LABOR STANDARDS IN LAW, IN PRACTICE, MANY AMERICAN COMPANIES COMPLAIN THAT THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR TENDS TO BE MORE SEVERE WITH FOREIGN INVESTED COMPANIES IN CARRYING OUT FACTORY INSPECTIONS. FURTHER, AMERICAN FACTORIES FACE CONTINUING KMT PRESSURE TO ORGANIZE FACTORY LABOR UNIONS. FINALLY, WAGES IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR HAVE INCREASED 14 PERCENT IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1978 COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD A YEAR EARLIER. (NOTE: BECAUSE OF THE CONTINUING STATE OF EMERGENCY WITH REGARD TO THE PRC, ROC MARTIAL LAW FORBIDS LABOR STRIKES IN ALL FACTORIES.)

6. COMMENT: THE AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN HERE HAVE SOMETIMES EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THE GROC APPEARS TO URGE "PROGRESSIVE" LABOR PRACTICES IN FOREIGN INVESTED FACTORIES TO SERVE AS A "GOOD EXAMPLE" TO THE NARROWLY PROFIT-ORIENTED CHINESE FACTORY OWNERS. UNGER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** LABOR, STANDARDS, INFORMATION EXCHANGE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 09 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978TAIPEI05266  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780326-0482  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** TAIPEI  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780880/aaaacpjp.tel  
**Line Count:** 80  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 07d2ea65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION STR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 STATE 136706, 78 STATE 194523  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 05 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** N/A  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1787293  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON LABOR STANDARDS  
**TAGS:** ETRD, ELAB, TW, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/07d2ea65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014